GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2263
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
CO -OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the co-operative societies in the country are sound enough to take on the challenges of globalization;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to grant more autonomy to these societies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have endorsed the decision of the Union Government to grant more autonomy to these societies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Government is aware that cooperatives will have to face the challenges of open economic policies and globalization of the economy. Therefore, to provide an appropriate policy and legislative frame work to these institutions, in order to enable them to face these challenges, the Government has taken several measures, inter-alia, enunciation of a National Policy on Co- operatives, enactment of Multi State Cooperatives Societies Act, 2002. Constitution(One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006 has also been introduced in Lok Sabha addressing the key issues for empowerment of the cooperatives through their voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management. Government has also approved a financial package to revamp and strengthen the cooperative credit institutions in the country.

(d) & (e): These policies and legislative measures to strengthen the cooperatives have been taken in consultation with State Governments through various fora.